

Dr. Marcelo M. Hirschler, Ph.D., M.R.S.C., C.Chem.

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Dr. Marcelo M. Hirschler has a background in university, industry and as a private consultant (on technical and legal fire issues). He graduated from the University of Buenos Aires, where he obtained a first degree in Physical chemistry and a PhD in Polymer Chemistry, in 1975. He has worked in three continents (South America, Europe and the USA). After a career in academic research, in Argentina and the United Kingdom, Dr. Hirschler managed the fire testing and research laboratory at a plastics manufacturer, BFGoodrich, between 1984 and 1991 (with large and small scale heat release test instruments, and other fire test equipment). He chaired the US Technical Fire Subcommittees of the Coordinating Committee for Fire Safety (Society of the Plastics Industry) and of the Vinyl Institute between 1986 and 1991.

Dr. Hirschler has specialized in fire issues for over 20 years (mainly fire testing, fire hazard, smoke toxicity and smoke corrosivity) and has published some 350 papers and five books: "The Combustion of Organic Polymers" (Oxford University Press, with Charles F. Cullis), "Fire Hazard and Fire Risk Assessment", ASTM STP 1150, "Carbon Monoxide and Human Lethality: Fire and Non Fire Studies", Chapman & Hall), "Fire Calorimetry", NTIS, (Edited by Richard Lyon and Marcelo Hirschler) & ASTM STP 1376, "Electrical Insulating Materials, International Issues". The major applications are plastic materials, electric cables, furniture and furnishings, textiles and cigarette smoldering ignitions.

Dr. Hirschler is also very active in developing fire standards (both nationally and internationally) and codes. He is a member of ASTM committees E5 (fire standards), D9 (electrical insulation), D11 (rubber), D20 (plastics), F7 (aircraft), F23 (protective clothing), F25 (ships) and F33 (correctional facilities). He chairs various ASTM standards groups, mainly in electrical cables or furniture, and has been instrumental in developing modern heat release standards on small scale or full scale testing of furniture and cables by heat release measurements (ASTM E1537, E1590, E1822, D5424, D5537, F1550), hazard assessment (ASTM D5425, E2061) and room scale fire testing (ASTM E603, E2067). He is a member of NFPA code making panels for the National Electrical Code, Life Safety Code and Building Code, as well as the NFPA Fire Tests technical committee, the technical committee on Hazard and Risk of Contents and Furnishings, drafting NFPA Guide 555 and the technical committee on Merchant Vessels, drafting NFPA 301. He is a member of the IEEE technical committees dealing with electrical cables on ships. He also does international standards work on heat release and cables, as a representative for the USA on IEC TC'89 and as a member of various Canadian Standards Association Technical Subcommittees on Wiring Products.

Dr. Hirschler has also been involved, since 1984, in fire litigation, particularly in terms of the fire performance of materials and the products into which they are made. Experience in that area has focused on fire testing, results interpretation and analysis of fire consequences by comparison with known information and with the scenario in question.

Dr. Hirschler is an associate editor of the journal Fire and Materials and is on the Editorial Board of several scientific fire journals (Fire Safety Journal, Journal of Fire Sciences, Fire & Flammability Bulletin, Journal of Testing and Evaluation). During his academic career he worked in various University Chemistry Departments on issues of polymer combustion, polymer chemistry and fire retardance of polymers, as well as gas and liquid phase combustion. He also supervised a research group, including 12 doctoral students. After university, he continued managing research, both in his industrial laboratory and for various clients.

Appointments

ÿ Author of over 350 technical and scientific publications and public presentations

- Supervisor of 12 postgraduate university students and an industrial research team

STANDARDS

- Chairman ASTM Subcommittee on Fire and Furnishings and Contents (E-5.15) (1989-95)
- Chairman ASTM Subcommittee on Terminology and Editorial (E-5.31) (2000-)
- Recording Secretary ASTM Committee on Fire (E-5) (2000-)
- Secretary ASTM Subcommittee on Fire and Furnishings and Contents (E-5.15) (1988-1989 and 1996-)
- Secretary ASTM Subcommittee on Planning and Review of Fire Standards (E-5.91) (1990- 1999 and 2000-)
- Secretary ASTM Subcommittee on Editorial for Electrical Insulating Materials (D-9.94) (1994-)
- Principal Assigned Expert for USA to International Electrotechnical Commission Technical Committee TC'89 Working Group 1, on Terminology for Electrotechnical Products (1993-)
- Assigned Expert for USA to International Electrotechnical Commission Technical Committee TC'89 Working Group 8, on Heat Release and Flame Spread for Electrotechnical Products (1993-)
- Principal Assigned Expert for USA to International Standardization Organization Technical Committee TC92, on Terminology for Fire Standards (1999-)
- Chairman Task Group on Smoke Obscuration for Electric Insulating Materials (ASTM D-9.21.3) (1988-)
- Chairman Task Group on Heat Release for Electric Insulating Materials (ASTM D-9.21.7) (1992-)
- Chairman Task Group on Guidance for Carrying out Full Scale Fire Tests (ASTM E-5.13.1) (1992-)
- Chairman Task Group on Practice for Full Scale Heat Release Fire Tests (ASTM E-5.13.8) (1997-)
- Chairman Task Group on Development of Fire Hazard Assessment for Rail Transit Vehicles (ASTM E.5.17.94) (1992-)
- Chairman Task Group on Fire Testing of Full Scale Upholstered Furniture, Mattresses and Stacking Chairs (ASTM E-5.15.8) (1989-)
- Chairman Task Group for Smoke Toxicity on Flashover Fires (ASTM E-5.21.13) (1993-)
- Chairman Task Group for Ohio State University RHR Calorimetry (ASTM E-5.21.34) (1995-)
- Chairman Task Group for Heat Release Measurement by Thermopile (ASTM E-5.21.35) (1995-)
- Chairman Task Group for Smoke Release by Visible International Closed Chamber Methods (ASTM E-5.21.3) (1996-)
- Chairman ASTM F33.05 Task Group on Furnishings within Detention Occupancies (1997-)

- Member NFPA Technical Committee on Hazard and Risk of Contents and Furnishings, drafting NFPA 555 (1991-)
- Member NFPA Technical Committee on Life Safety of Furnishings and Contents, responsible for section 10 of NFPA 101 and for Chapter 10 of NFPA Building Code, NFPA 5000 (1991-)
- Member NFPA Technical Committee on Fire Tests (1996 -)
- Member NFPA Technical Committee on Merchant Vessels (1998 -)
- Member NFPA National Electrical Code Panel 15, on Places of Assembly (1993 -)
- Member CSA Subcommittees on Wiring Products Associated with Testing (CSA C22-0.3), Control and Instrumentation Cables (CSA C22-239) and Fire Alarm and Signal Cables (CSA C22-208) (1986-)
- Chairman CSA Task Group on Circuit Integrity of Subcommittee on Wiring Products Associated with Testing (CSA C22-0.3) (1997-2000)
- Member IEEE Technical Committee on Electrical Installations in Ships (IEEE 45) (1999-)
- Member IEEE Technical Committee on Shipboard Wire and Cable (IEEE 1580) (2000-)

RESEARCH

- Associate Editor, Fire and Materials Journal (1990-)
- Member Editorial Board: Fire Safety Journal, Journal of Fire Sciences, Fire and Flammability Bulletin
- Co-author "The Combustion of Organic Polymers" (with Charles F. Cullis) (Oxford University Press, Oxford, UK, 1981)
- Editor "Fire Risk and Fire Hazard Assessment", ASTM STP 1150, (Amer. Soc. Testing Materials, Philadelphia, PA, 1992)
- Editor-in-Chief "Carbon Monoxide and Human Lethality: Fire and Non Fire Studies" (Elsevier, London, UK, 1993)
- Co-Editor "Fire Calorimetry", (with Richard Lyon, Federal Aviation Administration), NTIS, 1995.
- Editor "Electrical Insulating Materials: International Issues", ASTM STP 1376, (Amer. Soc. Testing Materials, West Conshohocken, PA, 2000)

RECENT AWARDS

- Interflam Trophy (UK): 1988
- ASTM E-5 Certificate of Appreciation: 1989
- Wire Association International: Best Electrical Paper 1989
- ASTM Society Frank W. Reinhardt Award for Fire Terminology: 1990
- ASTM E-5 Award of Recognition: 1995
- ASTM E-5 Award of Recognition: 1998
- CSA International Award of Merit: 1999